ABMS Member Board Focused Practice Designation

The focused practice designation, approved by ABMS in March 2017, recognizes the value that physicians who focus some or all their practice within a specific area of a specialty and/or subspecialty can provide to improving healthcare. Focused practice designation enables the ABMS Member Boards to set standards for, assess, and acknowledge additional expertise that physicians gain through clinical experience, and it may include formal training. Visit the respective Member Board's website for more information.

ABMS MEMBER BOARDS WITH APPROVED FOCUSED PRACTICE DESIGNATIONS				
American Board of (1)	**Area(s) of Focused Practice**	**Active Certification Requirement**	**Year Approved by ABMS**	**First Issued**
Emergency Medicine	Advanced Emergency Medicine Ultrasonography	Emergency Medicine, Family Medicine, Internal Medicine	2018	2022
	Emergency Behavioral Health	Emergency Medicine, Psychiatry	2025	2026
Neurological Surgery	Central Nervous System Endovascular Surgery (2)	Neurological Surgery	2017	2020
	Neurological Critical Care	Neurological Surgery	2018	2021
	Pediatric Neurological Surgery	Neurological Surgery	2017	2018
Obstetrics and Gynecology	Minimally Invasive Gynecologic Surgery	Obstetrics and Gynecology	2019	2021
	Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology	Obstetrics and Gynecology	2017	2018
Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery	Adult Complex Thyroid/Parathyroid Surgery (3)	Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery	2022	2025
Pathology	Clinical Chemistry	Pathology-Anatomic/Pathology-Clinical OR Pathology-Clinical	2017	††
	Clinical Microbiology	Pathology-Anatomic/Pathology-Clinical OR Pathology-Clinical	2017	2020
Preventive Medicine	Lifestyle Medicine	Any ABMS Member Board	2026	††
Psychiatry and Neurology	Central Nervous System Endovascular Surgery (2)	Neurology or Neurology with Special Qualification in Child Neurology	2018	2022
Radiology	Central Nervous System Endovascular Surgery (2)	Diagnostic Radiology OR Interventional and Diagnostic Radiology, and Neuroradiology	2018	2022
Surgery	Adult Complex Thyroid/Parathyroid Surgery (3)	Surgery	2022	2025
	Metabolic Bariatric Surgery	Surgery	2019	2022

†† Designation not yet issued.

(1) The American Board of Family Medicine stopped issuing new designations in Hospital Medicine in 2025.

(2) The Central Nervous System Endovascular Surgery designation can be pursued through either the American Board of Neurological Surgery or the American Board of Radiology.

(3) The Adult Complex Thyroid/Parathyroid Surgery designation can be pursued through either the American Board of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery or the American Board of Surgery.

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